In Banaras Hindu University, a University Students' Council is functioning satisfactorily since 2007 in place of students' union.

In Aligarh Muslim University, in view of the past history of violence, elections to students' union is not being conducted.

In Allahabad University, no student body has been constituted.

Minorities status for Central universities

2535. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESROUCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of central universities which have been given minority status, State-wise;

(b) the criterion for granting minority status to universities;

(c) the details of facilities given to those institutions/universities which have been granted minority status;

(d) whether Government will grant minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Section 2(1) of the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920 defines the University as 'the educational institution of their choice established by the Muslims of India, which originated as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh and which was subsequently incorporated as the Aligarh Muslim University', Section 5(2)(c) of the Act empowers the University 'to promote especially the educational and cultural advancement of the Muslims of India. In view of this, the Central Government treats Aligarh Muslim University in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a minority institution within the meaning of Article 30(1) of the Constitution of India. However, the question relating to minority institution status of Aligarh Muslim University is pending before the Hon'hle Supreme Court of India where the interpretation of the term 'establishing' a University, as was laid down in the "Azeez Basha' matter is under challenge. Universities with minority status enjoy the rights under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

The demand for grant of minority status to Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University established under the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988, has been received from certain quarters. The orders of the Supreme Court in the AMU matter will have a bearing on the issue relating to the minority character of Jamia Millia Islamia, which is pending before the Hon'ble National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions.

National Commission for Higher Education and Research

†2536. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is constituting a National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) in pursuance of the recommendations of the report of Yashpal Committee;

(b) if so, whether all institutions related to higher education *viz.* UGC, AICTE, NCTE, NAAC, etc. will become non-functional;

(c) whether UGC was the only institution in the beginning and other institutions were constituted at later stages;

(d) if so, what required to constitute them and the reasons for not conferring the powers of the proposed commission to the UGC by enlarging its jurisdiction; and

(e) the branches of the proposed commission which would work in various fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The need to establish an overarching regulatory body in higher, technical and professional education subsuming the existing regulatory bodies in these fields of knowledge such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Distance Education Council (DEC) and the academic functions of the Bar Council of India (BCI) and the Council of Architecture(COA) etc. has been suggested by the Committee to Advise on Rejuvenation and Renovation of Universities (Yash Pal Committee). The National Knowledge Commission also had recommended an over-arching Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education. Para 32 of the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009 has stated the intent of Government to establish a National Council for Higher Education as recommended by the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) and the Yash Pal Committee.

(c) and (d) The University Grants Commission was established for the coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of university education. Over time, Councils for regulation of several areas of professional education were established to focus specifically on certain fields of knowledge. While the creation of professional Councils did help in focusing attention on specialized areas of education, it has fragmented various fields of knowledge in the higher education from a policy perspective. It has become imperative that a holistic view of higher education is taken because of the increasingly converging nature of disciplines at the frontiers of emerging knowledge. This requires an entirely new regulatory architecture in higher education and the need to invest it with the autonomy to ensure the proper development of higher education with universities emerging as autonomous spaces where innovation can flourish.

(e) Government has constituted a Task Force to aid and advise the Central Government in the establishment of the proposed regulatory structure which would unify technical, professional education and university education other than medical education and agricultural education, and the matter is under consideration.